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8063 feet. The author also gave the result of his investigation of the various routes supposed to have been taken by the Israelites from the Egyptian side of the Red Sea to Jebel Musa, and gave in detail the grounds on which he had come to a slightly different opinion on this subject from previous writers. With regard to Sinaitic inscriptions, Mr. Holland paid especial attention to them, and found their extent to have been much underrated. He believed that a thorough investigation of them would give a key to the character and history of the writers. His own observations led him to the conclusion that they were not the work of mere casual pilgrims or travellers, but of a settled people who lived in the central granitic district, especially in the neighbourhood of Jebel Serbal, and who made the "mountain roads."

The PRESIDENT said he was sure the Meeting had heard with great interest Mr. Holland's description of the Peninsula of Sinai, for it was the result of much personal exertion, including long journeys on foot, made under considerable privations. Having taken a great interest in the exploration of Palestine and the augmentation of the Palestine Fund, he was happy to find that the author had concluded his very remarkable paper by a pertinent allusion to that subject. He was also very glad to observe that the Archbishop of York was present, as his Grace had taken the lead in promoting the exploration of Palestine.

The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK had listened to the paper with great interest, as he was sure all present must have done. He did not think that the period had been reached when inferences might safely be drawn on many points connected with ancient and sacred history. It was commonly assumed that Palestine was a well-known country, but he believed that assumption to be entirely contrary to the fact. Palestine and the Peninsula of Sinai had not been as yet thoroughly observed and explored, although they had been traversed by one traveller after another upon the old system. We still wanted facts more than inferences. He would mention the name of Mr. Tristram as another observer in the same walk who had lately put forth a most valuable contribution on the subject of Palestine. It was from such men as Mr. Holland and Mr. Tristram that we must learn much before we could safely trust ourselves to make inferences of the character which some had made—inferences, let him say, which it was easier to make than facts were easy to observe. He hoped it would be remembered, after the allusions which had been made to the subject, that the Palestine Exploration Fund was a sort of younger sister of the Geographical Society, its business being to send persons to collect facts to enable us by-and-by to make sounder deductions and better inferences, and thus avoid the confused ideas which now disfigured our discussions on the subject of Palestine.

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*Eleventh Meeting, 14th May, 1866.*

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, BART., K.C.B., PRESIDENT, in  
the Chair.

ELECTIONS.—*George W. Bacon, Esq.; the Hon. George Campbell;  
William Gillespie, Esq.; Lieut. Brownlow Villiers Layard; Captain John*

*F. A. McNair, R.A. ; John George Miles, Esq. ; Captain Francis G. S. Parker, F.G.S. ; Edward A. Prinsep, Esq. ; Robert Pharazyn, Esq. ; Adam Scott, Esq. ; William Scott, Esq. ; Walter T. Sendall, Esq. ; John Edwin H. Skinner, Esq. ; Nicholas Kirkby Torre, Esq. ; Sydney Walker, Esq. ; Richard Worthington, Esq.*

ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY SINCE THE LAST MEETING, 23RD APRIL, 1866.—'The Anthropology of the New World,' by W. Bollaert, Esq. Presented by the Author. 'Cuestion de limites entre el Ecuador i el Peru,' por P. Mosecarfo. Presented by J. Power, Esq. 'Das Ausland. — Überschau der neuesten Forschungen auf dem Gebiete der Natur-, Erd-, und Völkerkunde.' 38<sup>e</sup> Jahrgang, 1865. 'Reisen durch Süd Amerika.' Vol. I. Von J. J. von Tschudi. Both added to the Library by purchase. Continuations of Periodicals, Transactions, &c., of the different Societies.

ACCESSIONS TO MAP-ROOM SINCE THE LAST MEETING.—India; Map of mountain-ranges adjacent to the Punjab, showing Forests. Presented by C. R. Markham, Esq. Atlas of the Colony of Queensland, Australia, by the Surveyor-General. Presented by the Colonial Office, through T. Cardwell, Esq. British Burmah: Pegu Division. Presented by the India Office, through J. Walker, Esq., Hydrographer. Two Oil-paintings of the Victoria Falls, Zambesi River. Presented by the artist, T. Baines, Esq. Map of India, by J. Walker, Esq., on 6 sheets. Purchased. Map of Asia-Minor, by Kiepert, on 2 sheets. Purchased. Abyssinia: MS. by Consul Plowden. Presented by the Royal Geographical Society of Paris. Indian Atlas; 14 sheets of the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India. Presented by the India Office, through J. Walker, Esq., Hydrographer. Ditto: the North-Eastern Frontier of Bengal, by Lieut.-Colonel Thuillier, Surveyor-General. By the India Office. Map of Burma, on 2 sheets, by Colonel Yule. Presented by Mr. Arrowsmith.

Previous to the reading of the papers the PRESIDENT announced that a despatch had been received by the Foreign Office from the Political Resident at Aden, and communicated to the Society, relative to the supposed existence of survivors of the wreck of the *St. Abbs* in a state of captivity amongst the Somälis of East Africa, and stating that the agent (Colonel Merewether) had commissioned a very intelligent Somäli, interpreter of the police court at Aden, who was going on leave to his home, to send a trustworthy person to the country where the Europeans are said to be living, and to bring back certain intelligence of their being there or not. The contents of this despatch he was sure would be satisfactory to the meeting, as it showed that every endeavour was being made to ascertain the facts of this case, which had been so ably brought before the Society during this session by Colonel Rigby.

The PRESIDENT then stated that the first communication to be laid before the Society this evening was one by Captain Montgomerie, respecting the

elevated region which separates our Indian possessions from Chinese Turkestan. Captain Montgomerie had already received the Society's Royal Medal for his adventurous explorations and his admirable trigonometrical observations, in these difficult mountainous countries on the extreme north of our Indian empire. The communication contained the result not only of the author's own observations, but also of those made by a well-informed Moonshee, an inhabitant of the Punjab, who was instructed by the author for the purpose of extending an outline survey to Yarkund.

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1. *On the Geographical Position of Yarkund and other places in Central Asia.* By CAPTAIN T. G. MONTGOMERIE, R.E., Gold Medallist R.G.S.

THE author stated, that whilst employed as astronomical assistant of the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India, in surveying Kashmir, Little Thibet, and the neighbouring provinces, he always kept in view the possibility of making a reconnaissance of the countries lying to the north of the Mustakh and Karakorum ranges. He at length succeeded in finding an intelligent Moonshee, named Mahomed-i-Hameed, willing to run the risk of carrying instruments to Yarkund, in Eastern Turkestan, to fix its position, besides surveying the route thither from the trigonometrical stations in Ladak. He was trained by Captain Montgomerie to take observations for latitude with a small sextant, to record the temperature of the air, and of boiling water, and to make a rough skeleton route-survey from point to point. He started in the summer of 1863, and after spending the winter in Yarkund, making his observations secretly by night, returned over the mountain passes in the following spring; his return being hastened by the threats of the Chinese authorities, whose suspicions were aroused by his proceedings. Unfortunately, the Moonshee died when within a short distance of one of the surveying stations, but his papers were all preserved and given up to Captain Montgomerie. The latitude of Yarkund proved to be  $38^{\circ} 19' 46''$ , and the longitude, as deduced from his route survey,  $77^{\circ} 30' \text{ E.}$ ; the altitude was 4000 feet above the sea-level. The march across the mountains, to the watershed dividing India from Turkestan, occupied fifty-one days, a result which gives a grand idea of the enormous scale of the Himalayan ranges. The road for twenty-five days was over country never lower than 15,000 feet, and for forty-five days not lower than 9000. The distance, in a straight line from Jummoo to Yarkund, is 430 miles, so that the mountains are at least 400 miles across at their smallest breadth. The winter at Yarkund was very severe, the thermometer, early in January, falling nearly to zero, and from the 19th to the 26th January snow fell; the sky, however, was